5/4/77

Lane: His 5/3/77 press conference.

If Lane did npt have all his remarks written out he had them in detailed notes. After the press conrference several reporters went up to check some of it, I think about the Ray film he presented.

George told me afterward that the film was made on 4/24 or the week before Lane used it to promote his book. There is no use of it possible in Ray's interest and there was nothing new in it in any event.

This is to say where it was either real of fairly accurate.

Oscar Collier came up to me. He was the editor on the book. I needled him about what he had told me when he was President of Twentieth Century Publishing in New York. He had been Lane's agent and Marguerite Oswald's. He then told me that Lane is a bastard, that he had gotten Lane an advance from Barney Rosset of Grove Press for a book not on the Commission but to appear before the Commission issued its report. The advance was not large- $1500-$1800. Lane never delivered that book and refused to give the advance back.

Yesterday Oscar claimed that there had been no such deal. When I was specific he said on, that was "Rush to Judgement." It happens that Rush to Judgement is supposedly on the Report, not the book contracted. He appears to have been Lane's editor, from what he said and this is not unequivocal- since Chicago Eyewitness.

We got into the dirty businessof the book and I said I might have to take time to do something about it. Oscar said simply "You can't." The manner of this was that they were aware from my having put P-H on notice-he indicated awareness of this - and had deliberately come as close as they could to what they consider actionable but had sought to make what should be actionable not actionable.

It was vintage Lane:"I have never for one moment speculated" on who killed JFK.

He now memorized formulation of considering the FBI, this time its officials, as "prime suspects." As killers.

Two things done by the FBI in pursuanace of this alleged conspiracy: they got King to "move into the Lorraine and painted stories and wrote Senator Byrd's speech. The story on King and the white motel was authorized but it never appeared.

King's "security" was reduced from 12 to 2, with Medditt in charge.

"All these decisions were made by one man, Frank Holloman, who "ran J. Edgar Hoover's personal office."

He has a tape of an interview with Murtaugh in which Murtaugh pronounces Zorro as "Zero."

"The only investigation/,..was the investigation conducted by the get-King squad." Repeated as "only squad that conducted the investigation." Second side of tape:

Presents what is in guilty plea, which he got from Frame-Up, is the result of his own investigation. Lile Aeromarine and the exchange of the weapon. Of course Huie also published this and I got it under FOIA, extradition.

There is, repeated, no question but that the FBI is "prime suspect" and that J. Edgar Hoover had motive.

During the showing of the videotape he moved over to the left of it from the audience perspective, which put him right in front of me. I became aware that he was watching me carefully and regularly. First I found myself wondering whether he was expecting some kind of reaction, perhaps of dismay at this spectacular thing he had done. When I became aware of this I wondered just how sick Lane can be. He has to know the days on end I have spent with Ray and that nothing he was presenting had any significance. I finally smiled broadly. There was nothing to it except what could in the future hurt Ray and establishing truth.